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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/043,361
Applicant: Ehrman, et al.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) A system for managing data associated with mobile assets, comprising:

a management computer for storing asset control data for a plurality of mobile assets in a relational database format;

an asset monitor, for each of a plurality of mobile assets, for monitoring a respective mobile asset to collect asset monitored data, operable to for wirelessly receiving receive-asset control data originated at the management computer, and for controlling make decisions concerning operation of the mobile asset in view of the asset monitored data and the received asset control data; and

a wireless communications infrastructure interconnecting the management computer to each of the mobile assets, the infrastructure including a plurality of local monitor nodes each storing asset control data in a relational database format for at least a portion of the plurality of mobile assets that is at least a partial replica of the asset control data stored by the management computer.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein each of the local monitor nodes includes a processor operable to be responsive to received asset control data originated at the management computer, to make decisions concerning operation of the mobile asset in view

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of the received asset control data and wirelessly communicate instructions for mobile asset operation to the mobile asset.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the management computer operates to determine to which ones of the plurality of local monitor nodes does the asset control data for a certain one of the plurality of mobile assets need to be communicated.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the asset monitor is further operable to parse a wirelessly received communication of asset control data to identify and store only that asset control data which is pertinent to the mobile asset.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the asset data stored by the management computer in a relational database format comprises data relating to controlling access to the mobile assets and authorization for operators to utilize each of the plurality of mobile assets.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35 wherein the plurality of local monitor nodes each store at least a portion of the access control and authorization asset data and wirelessly communicate that asset control data to asset monitors.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 36 wherein the asset monitor is further operable to parse a wirelessly received communication of access control and authorization asset

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data to identify and store only that access control and authorization asset data which is pertinent to the mobile asset.

38. (new) The system of claim 31, wherein the asset monitor prevents access to the mobile asset when asset control data does not correlate to asset monitored data.

39. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the access control data identifies operators approved to access the mobile asset.

40. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the access control data identifies one or more locations at which the mobile asset is permitted to operate.

41. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the access control data identifies a date by which maintenance must be performed on the mobile asset.

42. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein access control data is deleted when a predetermined date is reached.

43. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the access control data includes a schedule of dates and times during which a first user may operate the mobile asset.

44. (new) A method for monitoring and controlling a mobile asset, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving asset control data at a mobile asset, the asset control data having been originated from a management computer;

monitoring the mobile asset to generate asset monitored data;

comparing the asset monitored data to the asset control data to determine whether the mobile asset should be allowed to operate; and

preventing operation of the mobile asset if it is determined that the mobile asset should not be allowed to operate.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

parsing the received asset control data to determine whether the asset control data is applicable to the mobile asset; and

storing the received asset control data if it is determined that the asset control data is applicable to the mobile asset.

46. (new) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

deleting asset control data if it is no of date.

47. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of monitoring the mobile asset to generate asset monitored data comprises receiving user identification data regarding a potential user, and the step of comparing the asset monitored data to the asset control data to determine whether the mobile asset should be allowed to operate comprises comparing the user identification data to a schedule to determine whether the user identification data identifies a user that is scheduled to use the mobile asset at a current time.

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48. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of monitoring the mobile asset to generate asset monitored data comprises receiving user identification data regarding a potential user, and the step of comparing the asset monitored data to the asset control data to determine whether the mobile asset should be allowed to operate comprises comparing the user identification data to a schedule to determine whether the user identification data identifies a user that is scheduled to use the mobile asset at a current location.

49. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the step of monitoring the mobile asset to generate asset monitored data comprises monitoring sensors on the mobile asset to determine maintenance characteristics of the mobile asset, and the step of comparing the asset monitored data to the asset control data to determine whether the mobile asset should be allowed to operate comprises comparing the asset monitored data to data representative of acceptable maintenance characteristics.

50. (new) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of preventing operation of the mobile asset if it is determined that the mobile asset should not be allowed to operate comprises the step of:

limiting the functionality of the mobile asset.